



# PILOT ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN PUBLIC SPACES

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Council Presentation  
Engineering Services  
July 29, 2020



# Agenda

1. Context + Background
2. Pilot Overview (Process and Criteria)
3. Proposed Sites
4. Other Considerations
5. Upcoming Work

# Pilot Program | Context

Pilot was born out of a recent Council motion (June 23) to allow public consumption of alcohol in designated public spaces.

## Proposed Goals:

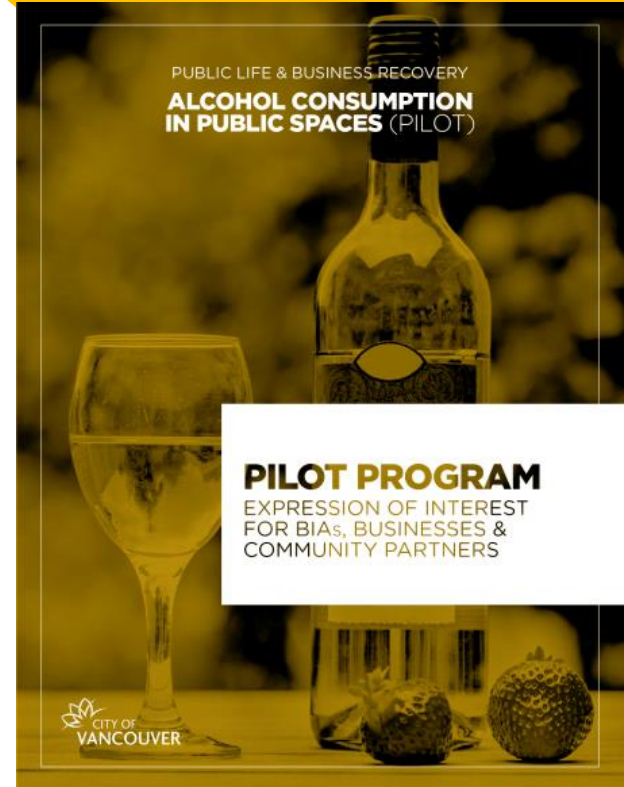
- Supporting businesses recovery;
- Facilitating social connectivity; and
- Promoting equitable treatment of all public space users.

## Considerations

- VCH** • Long-term impacts of enabling public drinking in a “binge drinking culture”
- Potential impacts from alcohol-related incidents on emergency and hospital services
- Overloading frontline health services during a pandemic
- VPD** • Management of safety in public spaces
- Spaces with increased liquor service often require increased police presence

# Pilot Program | Overview

- Pilot sites are based on interest and participation from **BIAs and businesses**
- Ongoing **management and stewardship** of the site will be a collaboration between staff and partners
- **Four pilot sites** will be proposed for Council consideration
- Each site will have a management and monitoring plan
- The pilot program will **end Oct 12, 2020**



## Overview | Process to Date

- ✓ Ongoing engagement with **VCH, VPD, Park Board**
- ✓ Ongoing engagement with **internal departments**
- ✓ **Three general criteria categories:**
  - Spatial
  - Management / Stewardship
  - Monitoring

- ✓ **'Expression of Interest' (EOI)** was sent to BIAs and COV received interest from **four BIAs**.
- ✓ Received proposals and sites and evaluated against criteria.
- ✓ Drafted Bylaw Amendment to **City Land Regulation Bylaw 8735**
- ✓ Ongoing exploration of **Piazza opportunities**

# Overview | Draft Criteria Areas

## Spatial Feasibility

- Determines the **physical and technical suitability** of each site.
- Ideally small, neighbourhood plazas in commercial areas in visible and accessible locations or areas within larger plazas
- Close to transit, public washrooms, overnight parking, and food-primary businesses.

## Management & Stewardship

- Outlines the services, roles, and responsibilities, and resources needed to **maintain and manage the site** for the duration of the pilot.
- Includes cleaning and waste management plan, and informational resources such as signage.

## Monitoring for Data

- Approaches by which data and public feedback will be collected.
- Informs **day-to-day management and of sites, and longer-term public space policy.**
- Includes collaboration with 3-1-1, VPD, VCH and partners.

# Proposed Pilot Sites

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# Lot 19 Plaza

**Location** Hornby St. & W. Hastings St.

**Partner(s)** Downtown Vancouver BIA

**Opportunities**

- Central location, well managed and programmed

**Considerations**

- Gradient changes with steps and ledges
- Staff will work with partner to secure washroom
- Management considerations
- Potential Piazza interest







# Bute-Robson Pavement-to-Plaza

**Location** Bute St. & Robson St.

**Partner(s)** Robson St. BIA

**Opportunities**

- Existing management & stewardship plans
- Known public space

**Considerations**

- Staff will work with partner to secure washroom



ROSEMARY BROWN LN

BUTE ST

ROBSON ST





# Cambie & 17<sup>th</sup> Temporary Plaza

**Location** Cambie St. & 17<sup>th</sup> Ave

**Partner(s)** Cambie Village BIA

- Opportunities**
- Already well-used by residents
  - Could help to activate space
  - Existing management plan

- Considerations**
- Staff will work with partner to secure public washroom





# šxʷłənəq Xwtl'e7 nk\_ Square

**Location** Vancouver Art Gallery (North Plaza)

**Partner(s)** Downtown Vancouver BIA

**Opportunities**

- Central location, well managed and programmed
- Existing public washroom

**Considerations**

- Busy arterial (Georgia St.)
- VPD concerns





HORNBY STREET

HOWE STREET

## Other Considerations | Pilot Gaps

### Partnerships

To advance the pilot this summer, **we are relying heavily on our existing partnerships with local BIAs** to help implement and manage the pilot sites. As such, we acknowledge that this first iteration of the pilot is business-centric.

### Social Equity

**This work is starting the conversation for greater public space equity work to come.**

**Public space equity requires ongoing, meaningful engagement** – specifically around larger issues of decriminalizing and destigmatizing people and communities who experience disproportionate levels of policing and surveillance.

# Upcoming Work

## Pending Council Approval

- Finalize communications plan for media
- Finalize partner agreements
- Produce on-site signage and resources
- Implement and operationalize pilot
- Publish public information and survey



## Recommendations to Council

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THAT Council approve, in principle, amendments to the City Land Regulation By-law No. 8735 to designate certain public places over which the City has jurisdiction as places where liquor may be consumed;

AND THAT the Director of Legal Services be instructed to bring forward for enactment by Council a By-law to amend the City Land Regulation By-law to designate these places.

# Questions + Discussion

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# Appendices

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## Appendix A | Other BIA Proposals

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|--------------|---|---|
| Downtown BIA | <b>Bute-Alberni<br/>Temporary Plaza</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Directly in front of liquor store</li><li>• Should shift attention more to Bute-Robson (one block south).</li></ul> |
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|--------------|--------------------|--|
| West End BIA | <b>Morton Park</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parks managed site</li><li>• Potential to spill-over into English Bay – not an identified Parks pilot site</li><li>• Does not have partner-based management plan</li></ul> |
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| Mount Pleasant BIA | <b>Sun Hop Park</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parks managed site</li></ul>   |
|                    | <b>MacCauley Park</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Parks managed site</li><li>• Robson Park (directly adjacent) is already identified as a Parks pilot site</li></ul> |

## Appendix B | Motion: Alcohol Consumption in Public Spaces Pilot

- A. THAT Council direct staff to prepare a **by-law to allow a pilot for liquor consumption in select public places** that are under jurisdiction of the City, and enables the creation of temporary and time limited spaces for responsible consumption of alcohol in public.
- B. THAT Council direct staff to **consult with the Vancouver Police Department, Vancouver Coastal Health, Engineering Services and Planning, Urban Design and Sustainability, staff as well as local BIAs and businesses** to recommend appropriate locations and hours for consumption of alcohol in specified public places. Recommendations should consider, but not be limited to:
  - a. Public safety;
  - b. Crime prevention through environmental design;
  - c. Access to restroom facilities;
  - d. Proximity to neighbours;
  - e. Litter receptacles; and
  - f. Public Health
- C. THAT Council direct staff to prepare **appropriate process, signage and messaging** that conveys:
  - a. Hours of use;
  - b. Conditions of use;
  - c. Location boundaries;
  - d. Rules and recommendations for the responsible consumption of alcohol;
  - e. Respect for neighbours and area;
  - f. Location of nearest restroom facilities; and
  - g. Complaint mechanism.

## Appendix B | (continued)

D. THAT Council direct staff to report back as soon as possible with **fast-tracked priority actions and locations as pilot projects**, including but not limited to:

- a. Ensuring equitable distribution of public spaces for the responsible consumption of alcohol throughout the City;
- b. Mitigating impacts where problem drinking might otherwise occur in unsafe, underserved or undesirable places;
- c. Leveraging opportunities for financial or logistical support from BIAs and others; and
- d. Supporting restaurants and patios where limited occupancy might necessitate wait times to enter;

FURTHER THAT in the context of improving summer weather and relaxing provincial health orders, these pilots inform a larger report back and future considerations for this program during and after the COVID-19 pandemic;

AND FURTHER THAT a first pilot in this program be the **piazza to celebrate Italian Heritage Month** and that its implementation help to inform other pilot locations.

## Appendix C | Motion: Italian Heritage Piazza

### 2019: Celebrating Italian Culture: Welcome Signage in Little Italy and a Pilot Program for an Italian Piazza in Vancouver

A. THAT Council direct staff to work with the Italian community to **explore the creation of an age-friendly “Piazza” pilot space in Vancouver**, that includes local artisans, restaurateurs, proprietors and vendors and would allow for community-led events in a designated outdoor space that also would include the responsible enjoyment of beer, wine and “appertivos” along with food, and if possible, to be implemented before the end of June 2020.

B. THAT Council direct staff **to engage and invite stakeholders to participate in the process** including, but not limited to: il Centro (the Italian Cultural Centre), Italian Day Festival Society, Commercial Drive Business Society, Italian Chamber of Commerce in Canada WEST, Vancouver Public Space Network, Britannia Centre, Viva Vancouver and the Vancouver Police Department.

C. FURTHER THAT Council direct staff to work with il Centro (the Italian Cultural Centre), the Commercial Drive Business Society and Italian Day Festival Society **to explore funding options**.

D. THAT Council direct staff **to work with Urban Indigenous communities, the Musqueam, Squamish and Tsleil-Waututh Nations, and the Italian community** to explore complementary ways to recognize, honour and make visible Indigenous presence in the neighbourhood designated as Little Italy, including in any considerations for a pilot Piazza.